



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies.

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Update from the IAA Network Leads

Greetings!

We just got back from a national convening of statewide afterschool network leads in Washington, D.C. It was an exciting few days in our nation's capital, and we've brought back a lot of good advice and information to share with our network members here in Iowa. The goal of these convenings is to bring all statewide networks together to share best practices, update each other on network goings-on, and provide a forum for discussion amongst network leads on topics of interest to the group. This year, much of the discussions were focused on network sustainability and partnerships. We got a lot of advice from our peers and were able to share some of Iowa's recent successes.

Additionally, the IAA also attended the national Lights On Afterschool Kickoff celebration hosted at the Department of Education in Washington, DC. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan shared encouraging words on the power of afterschool to make a difference in our youths' lives. It was really exciting to feel as though Iowa was a part of a broader mission to ensure all our country's children and youth are successful.

All in all it has been a great few weeks here at the Iowa Afterschool Alliance. We hope to be sharing much information with you all in the months to come.

Sincerely,

Brooke Findley and Michelle Rich
IAA Network Leads

New Policy Brief Explains How to Take Advantage of ARRA Funding for Summer Programs

A new policy brief from the [National Summer Learning Association](#) (formerly the National Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University) details how states and school districts can utilize funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for summer programming. According to the National Summer Learning Association, “much of the [ARRA] funding can be used to support high-quality summer learning programs, providing an unprecedented window of opportunity for states and districts to invest in an innovative reform proven to help close the achievement gap and turn around low-performing schools.” For the full policy brief, click [here](#).



New Research from the Afterschool Alliance Reports Startling Afterschool Participation Numbers across the Nation

The Afterschool Alliance has recently released their newly-updated *America After 3pm* report with startling information on afterschool participation across the country. According to the report:

8.4 million children participate in an afterschool program, an increase of nearly 3 million children over the past five years. **While this is encouraging, there is still work to be done.** The number of children left alone after the school day ends has risen to 15.1 million children - an increase of 800,000 children - since the 2004 edition of *America After 3pm*.

The report found that in Iowa, however, participation in afterschool programs greatly trails the demand for programs. According to the report:

Thirty-two percent of [Iowa's] schoolchildren are on their own in the afternoons, and another 13 percent are in the care of their brothers or sisters. In addition, the parents of 35 percent of children not already in afterschool say they would enroll their kids in a program if one were available.

For additional findings from the *America After 3pm* report, please visit the [Afterschool Alliance website](#). Interactive features launched October 15, 2009.

Afterschool Technical Assistance: Expanded Learning Opportunities and the ARRA

Education reform funding from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is estimated to be around \$8 billion. This funding will be allocated by the U.S. Department of Education to state and local education agencies and nonprofit groups between now and September 30, 2010, to advance education reform and improve student achievement. Three vehicles for this funding include:

- » **Race to the Top** state grant program - \$4.35 billion will be distributed to provide competitive grants to states demonstrating school innovation and reform efforts, achieving significant improvements in student outcomes, closing achievement gaps, improving high school graduation rates, and ensuring that students are prepared for college and careers.

- » **Title I, Part A School Improvement Grants** - \$3 billion has been allocated to improve 5,000 of the nation's lowest performing schools over the next five years.
- » **Investing in What Works and Innovation Fund (i3)** - \$650 million will be awarded to schools and nonprofits that have demonstrated significant increases in student achievement. Specifically, the grants are intended as “academic achievement awards” to accomplish the following purposes:
 - To allow entities to support scale-up and serve as models of best practices
 - To allow entities to work with the private sector and philanthropies
 - To identify and document best practices that can be shared and taken to scale



In the guidance for both Race to the Top and Title I, Part A, it has been noted that expanded learning opportunities and community-oriented supports will be key components of successful efforts. Quality afterschool programs are an essential tool to maximizing extended learning time opportunities, and student achievement has the potential to be strengthened by local efforts to include these programs as strategies to reform education. Partner with your local education systems today to improve graduation rates, school attendance, and student achievement!

For more information from the Afterschool Alliance, please visit the [Economic Recovery page](#) of their website. Additionally, the Afterschool Alliance has created a [wiki page](#) that is continually updated with new information on recovery funds.

Learning Point Associates, a national partner of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance, has developed a database of state-specific information related to state ARRA funds received that can be found on their [website](#).

Show Your Commitment to Afterschool: Sign up as a Partner of Afterschool for All

Afterschool for All is a national sign-on campaign that brings together individuals and organizations that believe that all children should have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs. It was created in 2003 to deliver a united and powerful message about the importance of afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities.

Afterschool for All Partners agree that afterschool programs:

- » Provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural and academic skills.
- » Work in collaboration with schools and community resources to offer children and youth an array of accessible and diverse services and opportunities.
- » Promote positive relationships among children, youth, families and adults.
- » Engage children, youth, families, schools and community partners in ongoing design, implementation and evaluation of activities.
- » Invest in diverse, skilled and committed staff.

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance is a proud partner in *Afterschool for All*. Consider signing up as a partner today. For more information and to sign on, please visit the [Afterschool for All](#) website.



Service Learning Recognized by Governor Culver during Learn and Serve Challenge week October 5-12, 2009

The week of October 5-12, 2009, was proclaimed by Iowa Governor Culver as Learn and Serve Challenge week. The proclamation recognizes that young people have much to contribute to their communities, and that through service learning young people are meaningfully engaged in their communities while building critical thinking, social and leadership skills.

Upcoming Events, Professional Development, and Funding Opportunities

Character Builder's Toolbox – presented by CHARACTER COUNTS! IN IOWA

The Character Builder's Toolbox workshop provides hands-on training plus a program guide with more than 100 K-6 activities designed to bring learning and growth through play. Participants will learn fun and creative activities in Action Learning, Artistic Expressions and Children's Literature. This workshop is designed to enrich a comprehensive character education initiative in your school or youth program. To be most effective, it is recommended that participants have attended Character Counts! Making an Impact class prior to taking this workshop.

Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Time: 9am to 3pm

Place: CIPCO 2600 Grand Ave Suite #410, Des Moines, Iowa

Fee: \$75 includes a program guide

Limited scholarships are available from Variety – The Children's Charity for agencies serving at-risk youth. To register, visit www.charactercountsiniowa.org and click on Resources/ Training and Workshops/Workshop Schedule.

Midwest Afterschool Science Academy, December 2-4, 2009 in Kansas City, MO

The Kansas Enrichment Network (KEN) and Missouri AfterSchool Network (MASN) are collaborating to put on the Midwest Afterschool Science Academy on December 2-4, 2009 in Kansas City, MO. In addition to quality, hands-on science curriculum for frontline staff and professional development models for administrators to take back to their communities, the event will explore advancing school-community partnerships, afterschool science as a means to level the educational equity issues, engaging science businesses in afterschool, and using authentic assessments of afterschool learning to influence policy.

Main topics of exploration will include:

- » Positive Youth Development/Quality Afterschool Programming
- » Quality Science Education for All

- » The processes of inquiry and experiential learning
- » Implementing high-quality Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) experiences in youth programs
- » Engaging underrepresented populations in the sciences
- » Afterschool Science Professional Development
- » School/Community Partnerships through Science



To register and for additional information, please visit the [Midwest Afterschool Science Academy website](#).

2010 ComServ Grants now Accepting Applications

Applications are now being taken for ComServ Iowa grants on service-learning. These grants are designed to advance the concepts associated with service-learning by providing federal funds to local school districts from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Learn and Serve America School-Based program that are interested in establishing, expanding, implementing, or operating a service-learning program in a school district or as part of a curriculum initiative.

Deadline for applications is November 4, 2009 by 4:30 pm. A full application can be found on the [Department of Education web site](#). For more information, please contact Joe Herrity at the Iowa Department of Education.

Chronic Disease Prevention and Wellness Promotion Funding Opportunity from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Is your community looking to implement programs aimed at reducing smoking and obesity as well as improving nutrition and physical activity? The American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009 is providing \$650 million for community prevention and wellness initiatives through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The deadline for applications is December 1. For more information on the funding opportunity, please visit the [HHS recovery website](#).

Beyond School Hours Winter Institute: Expanding Foundations for Learning

February 17-20, 2010, Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, Jacksonville, Florida
The US Department of Education, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and Foundations, Inc., have teamed up to host this opportunity for afterschool professionals to increase their skills and improve afterschool curriculum in sunny Jacksonville, Florida. This year's theme, Expanding Foundations for Learning, features presenters who have put current research into action, and who have been successful in narrowing the achievement gap. Sessions will cover topics including afterschool science, hands-on robotics, recruitment and retention of middle school students, and community school partnerships.

For more information on this afterschool professional development opportunity, please visit the [Foundations, Inc. website](#).

Check Out IAA's Facebook Page!

IAA has recently created a Facebook page. Through our page, you can find the latest information and updates regarding IAA and its activities, as well as links to relevant resources and funding opportunities. To search for the IAA page, just type the Iowa Afterschool Alliance on the search box at www.facebook.com. However, please continue to visit the IAA website for the listing of all resources at www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org.



Reminder

As we continue our work in promoting afterschool programs, below are words from a famous American to remind us why we do the work we do.

"A child is a person who is going to carry on whatever you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting and when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are important. You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they will be carried out depends on him. He will assume control of your cities, states, and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities, and corporations. Your books are going to be judged, accepted, or condemned by him. The fate of humanity is in his hands. So it might be well to pay him some attention."

- Abraham Lincoln